

[Go to Previous Minutes and Agendas](#)

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
April 6, 2006
Minutes

Attendees: William Simpson, Chair, Mary Feathers, Vice Chair, Gary Bent, Martha Kelly, Min Lin, Shamim Patwa, Superintendent Gordon Schimmel, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

Absent: Dudley Hamlin, Chris Kueffner, John Thacher

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mr. Simpson, Chair.

II. Approval of Minutes - **MOTION** by Dr. Bent, seconded Dr. Patwa to approve the minutes of the 3/9/06 meeting. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

III. Hearing for Visitors – None.

IV. Communications – Dr. Schimmel distributed two articles, *Standardized Tests Face a Crisis Over Standards, New York Times, March 22, 2006* and *Mediocrity: Deplorable, Yes. Until We Consider the Alternative, Education Week, March 22, 2006*.

V. Additions to Present Agenda - An Executive Session to discuss negotiations was requested.

VI. Committee Reports –Ms Feathers reported that the Personnel Committee is participating in negotiations with the Nurses' Association. Ms Lin reported that she attended the EASTCONN Directors' Meeting. Mrs. Kelly attended the Teacher of the Year Committee meeting.

VII. Report of the Superintendent

- A. **Food Service Update-** Mrs. Beth Gankofskie reported on the success of March Nutrition Month and the district's policy on vending machines. She also asked the Board to approve a price increase for the 2006-2007 school year. **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Ms Feathers to approve the price increase for school meals. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.
- B. **Budget Discussion with Town Council** - Board members who attended the budget discussion with the Town Council on April 5, 2006 shared their views on the meeting.
- C. **Homework Policy and Practice** - Mr. Jeff Cryan, Principal Mansfield Middle School discussed homework at the middle school, as reflected in Board policy and the Parent Handbook and research.
- D. **Class Size/Enrollment** - The building principals reported no significant change in enrollment.
- E. **Personnel-** **MOTION** by Ms Feathers, seconded by Dr. Bent to support the employment of Karen Despres, Guidance Counselor, Grades 5 & 6 effective July 1, 2006 and the resignation of Sarah Brooks, Social Studies Teacher, Grade 8

effective the end of the 2005-2006 school year. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

VIII. Hearing for Visitors – None.

IX. Suggestions for Future Agenda – Ms Lin asked for a discussion on World Language. Dr. Patwa requested information on how the elementary schools are preparing for the Connecticut Mastery Test addition of a Science test in 2008.

X. Executive Session

MOTION by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Ms Feathers to go into executive session at 9:20 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Ms Feathers to return to open session at 10:00 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

XI. Adjournment - **MOTION** by Dr. Patwa, seconded by Dr. Bent to adjourn at 10:01 p.m. **VOTE:** Unanimous

Celeste N. Griffin, Board Clerk